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FOOD

PREVIEW



A summary of the food outlook especially designed to give maximum advance information to food editors to help them plan food features.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

June 14, 1960
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MEAT.....Output in 1960 is expected to total about 28 billion pounds, or 2% above last year's level.
Beef.....Supplies will prove more abundant this year than in 1959. Fed cattle marketings will probably exceed a year earlier the last half of this year.
Pork.....By mid-year hog slaughter will dip appreciably below last year and continue below last year's level through the second half of 1960.
Lamb.....This year's lamb crop is expected to be 2% to 4% larger than a year earlier.

POULTRY:

Broiler-.....Slaughter is likely to rise above last year in July, a result of considerably increased hatchings which began in early May. Weekly hatchings in May and June are 10% to 15% above 1959, and they will govern July and August slaughter. Later, these increases are likely to taper down, because the broiler breeder flock is smaller than in 1959. Present outlook is for 1960 broiler supplies to total more than the 1,731,000,000 birds produced last year.
Fryers
Turkeys!.....Since recent hatchings have dipped below year-earlier levels, farmers may fall short of their first-of-the-year intentions to raise 6% more turkeys than the 82,000,000 produced last year.
Eggs.....Production so far this year has declined about 3% from 1959 levels and will probably continue below last year in the last half of 1960.

FRUITS:

Peaches.....The 1960 crop--estimated at 76,809,000 bushels--will be the largest since 1946. This size crop would run 3% larger than last year and nearly a fourth above average.
Watermelons....In California and Florida late spring output is estimated at 15% more than last year but 4% below average. Forecast for early summer melons runs 3% above 1959 but slightly below average. Late summer acreage is estimated 15% above last year and 46% greater than average.
Strawberries...Total crop is estimated at about 442,945,000 pounds--7% smaller than last year and slightly below average.

CITRUS.....An estimated 21,200,000 boxes of oranges remained unharvested June 1, compared with 25,100,000 a year earlier. Grapefruit not picked by that date totaled 2,100,000 boxes, as against 3,600,000 unharvested a year earlier. Lemons not picked by June 1 were estimated at 5,700,000 boxes, compared with 6,000,000 boxes a year earlier.

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Reserve

Pears.....A crop of 28,431,000 bushels is now forecast--6% below last year and 5% under the 10-year average.

Grapes.....June 1 condition of each of the California varietal grapes, while above average, was below 1959. But New York expects a good crop, with June 1 prospects considerably above last year.

Sweet Cherries..June 1 estimates indicate a crop of 83,370 tons--7% above last year but about an eighth below the 10-year average.

Sour Cherries..June 1 conditions point to a crop of 5,960 tons--28% smaller than last year and 43% below average.

Apricots.....Crop is forecast at 222,600 tons--3% below 1959 but 14% above average.

Plums.....While average, California crop is estimated at 80,000 tons--14% smaller than last year.

Prunes.....California's production is forecast at 133,000 tons--dried basis--which runs 6,000 tons under last year and 13% below average.

Apples.....June 1 conditions suggest a crop about the same size as last year

Processed.....Frozen orange concentrate pack by May 7 totaled about 57,000,000 gallons--down 5% from a year earlier. Due to increased carry-over last fall, packers' stocks by May 7 were up 9% from a year ago. Canners' April 1 stocks of 9 fruit items combined ran about 22% larger than a year earlier, all supplies being larger except sweet cherries. On May 1 cold storage stocks of frozen deciduous fruits were 12% below a year ago. Strawberries--the largest item--were down 7%.

VEGETABLES:

Fresh.....Spring production was expected to run 5% less than last year. Considerable declines in tomatoes, lettuce, cantaloups, onions, cabbage and broccoli were partly offset by increases in watermelons, green peppers, sweet corn and snap beans. Production of summer vegetables and melons--comprising about two-fifths of total summer output--is estimated to be only 1% below last year's level. Production of early summer potatoes is expected to be slightly larger than last year, with the crop reaching maturity about the usual time.

Processed.....Remaining supplies of both canned and frozen vegetables are considerably smaller than the heavy supplies of a year ago. Excepting sauerkraut--which is in a tight stocks position--supplies of other major items are ample.

NUTS:

Walnuts.....Production in California is estimated at 69,000 tons--18% greater than last year and equal to the 10-year average.

Almonds.....June 1 condition of California almonds is 67%. That's down sharply from last year's 98% condition, but still above average.

Filberts.....Prospects for Oregon and California filberts are not as good as the June 1 condition last year.

The Plentiful Foods Program

The Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, through its Plentiful Foods Program, is cooperating in these food campaigns:

JUNE DAIRY MONTH. June 1 - 30
 NATIONAL PICNIC MONTH July 1 - 31
 MID-SUMMER TURKEY TIME. July 28 - August 7
 AUGUST SANDWICH MONTH August 1 - 31